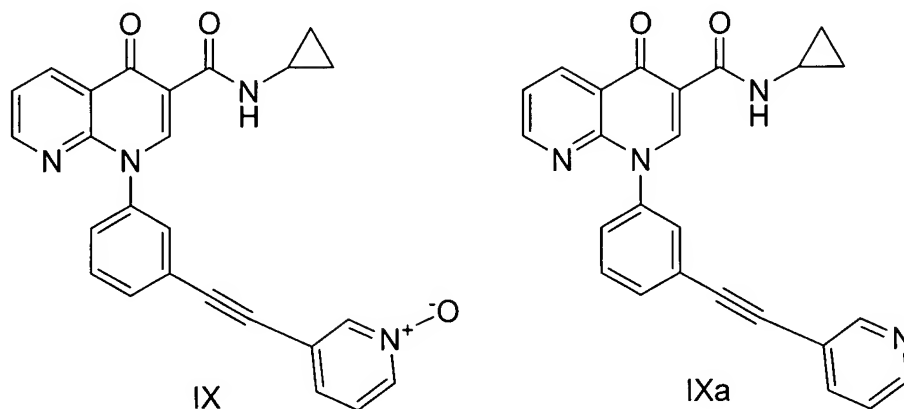


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

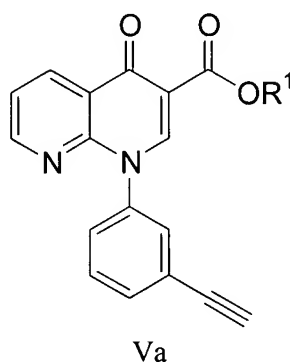
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

1 (Currently Amended). A method of preparing a compound of preparing a compound of the formula IX ~~and~~ or Formula IXa:



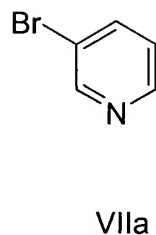
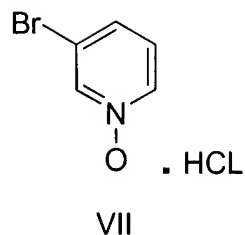
comprising

Step C: reacting, in solvent A, a compound of Formula Va

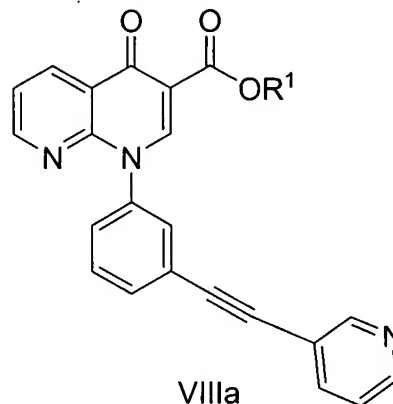
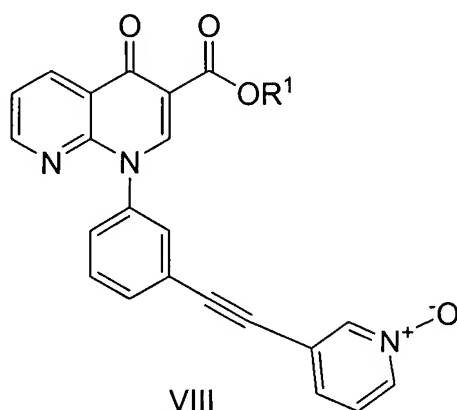


wherein

-OR¹ is a suitable leaving group selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₈ alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl; optionally substituted with aryl and/or C₁₋₈ alkyl,
solvent A is dimethylaminoacetamide, dimethylformamide, acetonitrile, DMSO, methylacetamide, ethers or mixtures thereof;
with a compound of Formula VII or Formula VIIa



in the presence of a palladium catalyst and a phosphine ligand in the presence of an amine base to yield a compound of Formula VIII or Formula VIIIa



Step D: reacting, in solvent B, a compound of Formula VIII or VIIIa with cyclopropylamine optionally in the presence of a catalyst to yield a compound of Formula IX or IXa.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the phosphine ligand is $P(C_{1-6}alkyl)$.

3 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 1 wherein the palladium catalyst is selected from the group consisting of ~~the palladium catalyst selected from~~ $P(t-butyl)_3-Pd-P(t-butyl)_3$, $[PdCl(allyl)]_2$, $Pd_2(dba)_3$, and $[P(t-butyl)_3PdBr]_2$.

4 (Original). A method according to claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of the compound of Formula Va to Formula VII or VIIa is approximately 1:1.5 to 1.5 to 1.

5(Original). A method according to claim 1 wherein the ratio of molar equivalents of amine base per mole of compound of Formula VII or VIIa is 2:1 to 3.5:1.

6(Original). A method according to claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of Palladium catalyst to compound of Formula Va is 0.05:1 to 0.10:1.

7(Original). A method according to claim 1 wherein step C is carried out at 40 to 70°C.

8. Canceled.

9(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 8 1 wherein solvent B is a C₁-galkanol solvent or acetonitrile.

10(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 8 1 wherein the catalyst is selected from Butyl phosphite (BuO)₃P and magnesium chloride.

11(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 8 1 wherein molar ratio of cyclopropylamine to compound of Formula VIII or VIIIa is at least 1:1.

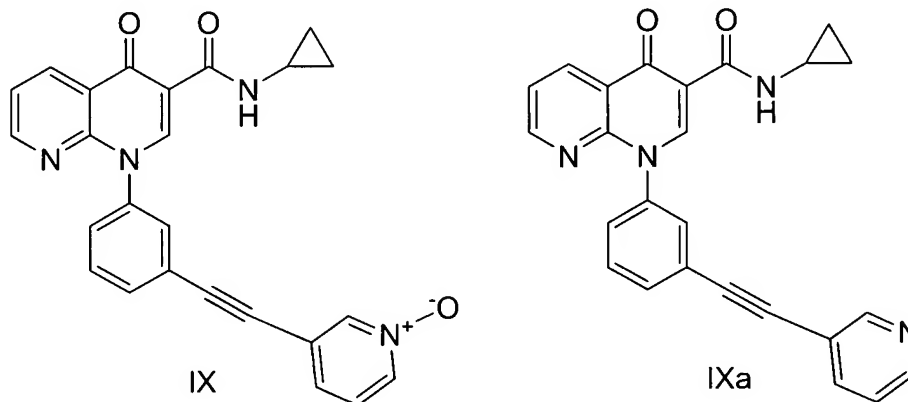
12(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 8 1 wherein step D is carried out at 40 to 60°C.

13(Currently Amended). A method according to claim 8 1 wherein reaction step C and reaction Step D are carried out in a single pot without purification or isolation of the product of Step C prior to proceeding with Step D.

14(Currently Amended). A method claim 8 1 further comprising mixing compound of Formula IX or IXa with a conversion solvent to recrystallize the compound of Formula IX or IXa.

15(Original). A method according to claim 14 wherein the conversion solvent is selected from dry ethanol, methanol, *N*-methylpyrrolidinone, trifluoroethanol, methyl *t*-butyl ether or mixtures thereof.

16(Original). A method of purifying a compound of Formula IX or IXa

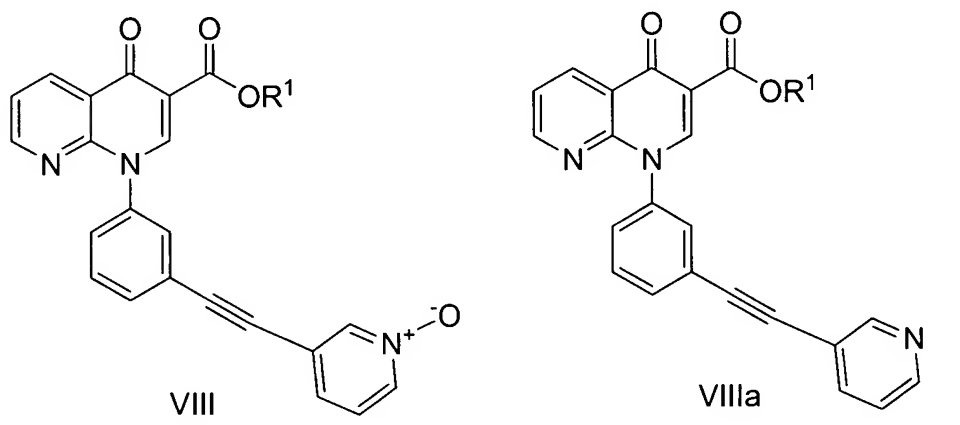


comprising: combining a compound of Formula IX or IXa with an amount of a conversion solvent sufficient to suspend the compound and recrystallize said compound of Formula IX or IXa.

17(Original). A method according to claim 16, wherein the conversion solvent is selected from dimethylformamide, dimethylacetamide, N-methylpyrrolidinone and C1-4alkanol.

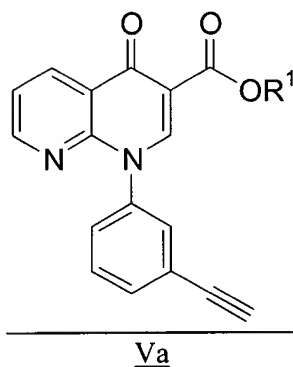
18(Original). A method according to claim 17, wherein the conversion solvent has a water content of less than 5%.

19(New). A method of preparing a compound of the formula VIII and Formula VIIIa:



comprising

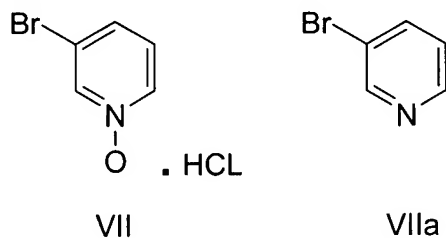
Step C: reacting, in solvent A, a compound of Formula Va



wherein

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₈ alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl; optionally substituted with aryl and/or C₁₋₈ alkyl.

solvent A is dimethylaminoacetamide, dimethylformamide, acetonitrile, DMSO, methylacetamide, ethers or mixtures thereof;
with a compound of Formula VII or Formula VIIa



in the presence of a palladium catalyst and a phosphine ligand in amine base to yield a compound of Formula VIII or Formula VIIIa.

20(New). A method according to claim 19 wherein the phosphine ligand is P(C₁₋₆alkyl) and the palladium catalyst is selected from the group consisting of P(t-butyl)₃-Pd-P(t-butyl)₃, [PdCl(allyl)]₂, Pd₂(dba)₃, and [P(t-butyl)₃PdBr]₂.